

## **MIDDLEWICH TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council's Finance, Policy and Governance Committee, held in Room 3A, Victoria Building, Lewin Street, Middlewich on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017, commencing at 6.00pm.**

### **PRESENT**

Councillor S Moss (in the Chair) and Councillors PJ Farrell, MA Hunter, K Kingston, DJ Latham, SN McGrory, B Walmsley and W Walmsley

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

JPA Williams, Town Clerk and DJ French, Assistant Town Clerk

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None

### **186 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Declarations of Interest were made:

- Councillor K Kingston declared an interest in any matters relating to his role as a Trustee of the Middlewich Heritage Trust;
- Councillors PJ Farrell, SL Moss and B Walmsley declared interests in any matters relating to Middlewich Community Trust;
- Councillors MA Hunter and B Walmsley declared personal interests in the Credit Union;
- Councillor W Walmsley declared an interest in any matters relating to the Wych Centre.

### **187 MINUTES**

#### **Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May be confirmed as a correct record.

### **188 TOWN COUNCIL GRANT SCHEME AND APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING**

The Committee considered grant applications submitted as follows:

- The Middlewich Charity Shield New Year's Day Treasure Hunt – to purchase a new shield for the annual Treasure Hunt or additional 'mini shields' for the current trophy;
- The Witches Monday Club – towards entertainment or day trips;
- Cheshire Neighbours Credit Union – towards information leaflets or banners to promote the organisation.

**RESOLVED:**

That:

- (a) the Town Council will purchase a trophy for the New Year's Day Treasure Hunt at a cost of up to £100 and the trophy will include the wording "supported by Middlewich Town Council";
- (b) the Town Council will support the Witches Monday Club with entertainment costs up to £100 at an event of their choosing which can also be used to promote the Club; and
- (c) no funding be offered to the Credit Union but the Town Clerk will contact the organisation to offer the use of a room at the Town Hall.

**189 REPLACEMENT MAYORAL CHAIN FOR THE DEPUTY MAYOR**

Vaughton's had provided some options for improving the Deputy Mayor's badge and consort's chain renewal.

**RESOLVED:**

That

- (a) the current pendant on the Deputy Mayor's ribbon be removed and placed on the Mayor's Chain, as originally intended;
- (b) the Deputy Mayor's ribbon be replaced with a simple gold chain and new badge. This would then become the Consort's Chain;
- (c) a new Chain be created for the Deputy Mayor, a scaled down version of the Mayor's Chain, incorporating the same new badge as the Consort's Chain; and
- (d) all work to be subject to a maximum cost of £3,500 and the Town Clerk will seek confirmation of costs and circulate to Members; noting that some costs could possibly be covered by an insurance claim.

**190 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY**

The Committee considered the resolution of the Council on 12<sup>th</sup> June regarding future arrangements for the surgery as set out below:

"That the arrangements for the Town Council surgery be referred back to the Finance, Policy and Governance Committee for consideration including the possibility of holding surgeries in local cafes subject to discussions with the business owners".

Members discussed the future arrangements, noting that since the discussion at the Town Council in June, the Council and Middlewich Vision had taken on the organisation of the monthly market – "the Middlewich Mexon Street Market". It had

been felt by officers and Councillors who had attended the first market in July, that there should be a permanent presence on the Town Council stand during the market. This was not a surgery as such but members of the public could speak with Town Council representatives about various matters.

**RESOLVED:** that:

(a) all Councillors be asked to attend the Market to cover the Town Council stand and a rota be drawn up for September, October and November; and

(b) the future arrangements for the Town Council surgery be deferred pending a review in due course of the market.

## **191 AUDIT**

The Committee noted the additional information that had been supplied to the External Auditor following the request from BDO Auditors.

**RESOLVED:** that the update be noted.

## **192 TOWN COUNCIL OWNED BUILDINGS**

The Committee considered two matters relating to the Town Council owned buildings:

- Quotes for the repair or replacement of the flat roof of the Victoria Hall – a number of quotes had been received for either repair or replacement of the flat roof. All were above the contingency figure in the budget of £10,000. A claim had been submitted to the insurance company but this had been rejected.
- Pigeon nuisance – a quote for dealing with the pigeons who nested at the front of the Victoria Buildings had been received. The pigeons caused an on-going nuisance requiring the front of the building to be cleaned on a daily basis.

Members also discussed the general maintenance issues arising from ownership of the buildings including inadequate heating and the required redecoration of a number of the Town Council offices.

**RESOLVED:** that

(a) the repair or replacement of the flat roof at the Victoria Hall be considered at the Town Council meeting; and

(b) the Community, Environment and Assets Committee consider the whole situation around the Council owned buildings including necessary repairs and maintenance, dealing with the pigeon nuisance, issues with the main roof, heating issues and redecoration requirements.

**PART TWO**

**None**

**Date of next meeting –Monday 9 October 2017 at 6.00pm**

**Cllr S Moss**

**Chairman**

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